

Statement

Chris Warren

My name is Chris Warren, the co founder and leader of the Saltford Station Campaign. What started as an idea over a pint in my local, quickly gathered pace into a community based campaign that has enjoyed support across the political divide because, quite simply, it makes sense, is achievable and brings back into use a much missed facility.

A re opened station will give access to the railway not just for the village but also outlying areas including Bath Spa University and will greatly enhance the forthcoming Metrowest services. It will play a big part in reducing traffic entering the World Heritage City of Bath and reduce pressure on the A4 Bristol/Bath corridor.

The campaign is aware of proposals to site the station further west, to an isolated spot close to the Keynsham boundary and Keynsham Station. Two stops, so close together is almost operationally impossible, which could mean a combined Keynsham & Saltford station. I would like to point out in the strongest terms, this idea defeats the object of sustainable transport. This location is a ten minute walk from the village, across fields. Sitting in a rock cutting, there would be considerable disruption to the railway in order to blast and excavate to allow construction of platforms. A road from the A4 would need to be built to give access plus a large car park would also be required, all on greenbelt land. It would generate thousands of unnecessary car journeys from both directions and would lead to a messy, time consuming campaign against the closure of Keynsham station, the second time it would have faced this threat.

No, the existing site, as Mr Brunel planned it, is the best location, directly adjacent to the A4 with 29,000 vehicles passing per day. It enjoys a network of footpaths connecting it to the community. A bus stop is close by, allowing the possibility of a rail/bus interchange, including a local shuttle bus. The former sidings offer a large, flat car park far bigger than Keynsham. With careful consideration given to the design of the site, It can be a quick and easy solution to help in reducing car dependency and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Show that B&NES is a forward thinking council, not wedded to the past of road building, and take this exciting project forward through the GRIP process by agreeing to the further funding, and demonstrating the decisions made today will leave a lasting and positive legacy for future generations.

Thank you
Chris Warren